

**CALA Testimony on House Bill 6824 – An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth 2017, and Making Appropriations Therefor and Other Revisions Related to Revenue**

The following shall constitute written testimony regarding House Bill 6824 - An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth 2017, and Making Appropriations Therefor and Other Revisions Related to Revenue from the Connecticut Assisted Living Association (CALA).

CALA is a statewide organization that represents the owners and operators of some 130 managed residential communities offering Assisted Living services to Connecticut's older adults and senior citizens.

CALA is grateful to the Appropriations Committee for holding this hearing in order that aging services and senior housing providers as well as residents in those settings may voice their concerns relating to Bill 6824.

CALA and its members wish to urge the Appropriations Committee to oppose several measures contained in Bill 6824 on the simple basis that these measures will in actuality increase costs to the state. Specifically, the proposals to increase the resident co-pay for participation with the CT Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE) from 7% to 15% and limiting intake into Level 1 of the program will certainly force unnecessary placement of many residents in more costly institutional settings. These proposals are counter to the state's rebalancing efforts and hurt frail, elderly individuals who rely on the CHCPE to live as independently as possible at lower taxpayer cost. These proposals also hurt many providers of senior housing and elderly services who provide valuable supports to many of our most vulnerable citizens.

Please consider rejecting or revising the portions of House Bill 6824 that very negatively impact older adults and senior housing and service providers in the state. Several aspects of Bill 6824 propose to save tax dollars but in actuality will increase state cost.

CALA remains available to serve as a resource to committee members as this proposal evolves.

Thank you for your consideration.